

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Redundancy is established over a radio link (RL) between peripheral units (28) of a communications network (20). The communications network includes a central unit (26) which is connected by a first link ( $L_A$ ) to a first peripheral unit ( $28_A$ ) and by a second link ( $L_B$ ) to a second peripheral unit ( $28_B$ ). The radio link connects the first peripheral unit and the second peripheral unit. Redundancy is realized by providing communication between the central unit and the second peripheral unit over the radio link upon failure of the second link. In one illustrated example implementation, the communications network is a radio access network of a telecommunications system, with the central unit being a radio network control (RNC) node and the first peripheral unit and the second peripheral unit being differing base stations of the radio access network. In another illustrated example embodiment, the central unit, the first peripheral unit, and the second peripheral unit comprise portions of a distributed radio base station node of a radio access telecommunications network. For example, the central unit comprises data processing and control functions of the distributed radio base station node, while the first peripheral unit and the second peripheral unit each comprises a transceiver of the distributed radio base station node. In a first mode of operation, traffic and control information which otherwise would be carried over the second link between the central unit and the second peripheral unit is rerouted to the radio link and the first link. In a second mode of operation, rather than rerouting the entire traffic and control information, certain control information is carried between the central unit and the second peripheral unit over the radio link and the first link.